HISTORY AND LITERATURE OF THE GAME OF

THE CUK.

From Temple Bor. A French artist, Henrique Devigne, has the eredit of being the inventor of billiards. But as he flourished in the reign of Charles II, A. D. 1560 74, and as the game was undoubtedly known to the English in the reign of Elizabeth it is probable that he only improved and modified a game popular in both countries. Could it be clearly proved that he was the absolute inventor of this fascinating pastime, billiard-players of all countries should combine to erect an ivory statue to his honor, whereon might be inscribed the names of famous players of all ages. But we cannot give the ingenious Frenchman the entire credit, and some people have even asserted that the French got the game from this country. Dr. Johnson held this opinion, possibly because he made a curious bluu-der about the derivation of the word "billiards." It comes of course from pila, a ball, whence bille and billard; and not, as, several anthorities assert, from the balyards, or sticks with which the ball was driven along the table. Additional reason for supposing that we owe the game as now played to the French may be found in the fast that most of the terms used in the game, as well as "billiards" itself, as we have seen, are of French origin. "Bricole," "coup," or "cou;" and "carombole," the old name for a "carom," or "cannon," are instances of this; while a "crow," or "fluke," has had a double derivation given to it. "Crow," or "raccroc," is from the French "raccrocher," to recover; and fluke has been derived from the flook of an anchor, seeing that it is a chance by which the arm of an anchor holds the ground-

rather a fanciful derivation. It is interesting to see what mention of the game is made by old writers, for the moment a game becomes at all popular, allusions to it are sure to be found in the literature of the day. We have gathered bere a few of such allusious to billiards. Locke says, "When the ball obeys the stroke of the billiard-stick, it is not any action of the ball, but bare passion;" and Boyle talks of "ivory balls meeting on a billiard-table." Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy" mentions that "the ordinary recreations which we have in winter, and in most solitary times busy our minds with, are cardes, tables, and dice, shovelboard, chesse-play, the philosopher's game, small trunks, shuttlecock, balliards, etc. Other authors have been complimentary to the game: a Mr. James Love, or Dance, an actor and dramatic author who lived in the last century, says:-

"Not puny billiards, where, with sluggish pace, The dull ball trails before the feeble mace.

Where nothing can your languid spirits move, Save where the marker bellows out 'six love!' Or when the ball, close-cushion'd, slides askew, And to an opening pocket runs—a cou!"

Misson, an author who wrote "Travels in England," speaks of the game as one common to all European nations: and another author, writing in 1654, talks of billiard-tables in taverus. Ben Johson has a pretty simile gathered from the board of green cloth. He speaks of—

"Nose and check withal,

Smootn as is the billiard-ball;" and the poet Spenser makes allusion to it, but not in a very complimentary spirit. More modern authors have referred to the game, but only sparingly; and, indeed, the scarcity of allu-sions to it show that from the earliest times it was rather the diversion of the rich than of the poor, on account of the expense of the cues, tables, balls, and all things connected with it.

There is a curious reference to billiards in a payment in the reign of James I, as follows: — "To Henry Waller, our joyner for one bylliarde boarde cont. twelve foote longe and fower broade, the frame being walnuttre well-wrought and carved, with eight great skrewes and eighteen small skrewes." This would be a very narrow board, but the length is the same as that usual in modern tables; and even the wood mentioned (walnut) is frequently used for private tables at this day. Henrique Devigne may possibly be entitled to the credit of having sed the game to its present amusements: but with regard to the invention of billiards, it is probable that in France, as was certainly the case in this country, they had lawn-billiards, of afterwards came to be played upon a table. To this improvement of the game, with other modi-

fications, Devigne probably contributed; but there is no doubt that the game, in its perfected condition, was of slow growth. Strutt, in his "Fports and Pastimes," is probably right when he says, after giving the French a certain amount of credit for the invention of billiards, "I cannot kelp thinking it originated from an ancient game played with small balls upon the ground; or, indeed, that it was, when first instituted, the same game transferred from the ground to the table." This ancient game, played with balls upon the ground, has been revived of late years in the fashionable game of eroquet, for the balls were driven through a or hoop fixed into the and afterwards also used into the middle of the billiard fastened table. A picture in the "School of Recreation"

(1710) represents two gentlemen engaged at the billiards of the period. They are standing at a four-legged table, and knocking the balls through two passes, with clumsy-looking curved maces about two feet long, held in the middle, so that the balls must have been prodded atcertainly not a method of play likely to produce any scientific results. A "cone," or king," placeed upright, was also used—the prototype of

Billiards is first mentioned as an unlawful game in an Act of Parliament, 30 George II; that is to say, by that act people are prohibited from playing the game in public houses under a penalty of ten pounds; but the people specified are only the lower orders, and the law not a very fair one. ctor of Saxony, in 1716 The Elector of Saxony, in 1716, was also careful to restrict billiards only to the upper classes, as we see from some amusing regulations issued by him in that year. Among other decrees we have, "Those who frequent silliard-reoms must be served by men-persons. Female markers may have been common at the time, and would probably be popular now in this country. We only remember to have seen one in London, in some rooms now closed. "Shopkeepers' assistants," the Elector's regula-tions continue, "are prohibited from playing." And here is a most salutary rule: —"The sum played for not to be more than suited to each person's position." We wonder how this was enforced, and who assigned the limit to each individual's gambling; it must have been a diffi-cult matter for the host to decide, and he must have been the arbitrator, for we read that he was made responsible for the observance of the regulations, and was fined for any infraction of them. Such orders would much astonish the frequenters of a billiard-room in these days, were they hung up alongside the rules for the

various games. Among the most popular games in the early days of billiards was a curious and complicated one, called the "fortification game." the table was covered with a number of forts or castles, each surmounted with its proper flag, and heavily weighted with lead to prevent the balls knocking it down; the conbatants, as in the games of our childhood, were called French and English. Old books on billiards give pictures of the table arranged for this game, which looks very odd to our eyes now, although it light be revived with advautage for children on the small billiard-boards so much in vogue, which can be placed upon dining-tables. Some reminiscence of it was probably in the mind of the ingenious individual who invented the abourd "ekittle-pool, common in public rooms some years ago, but which is seldom or never played nowadays. While speaking of this we L'ay mention some of the games most popular at the present day. By far the best game on the billiard-table is the ordinary winning and losing game, which has the advant ge of combining, in pleasant variety, winning, and losing hazards, and cannons; and it is the game which admits of the most conspicuous sk-ill. The American game is played with four b. 41s, but

the score mounts up very readily. We have heard of the most extraordinary "breaks," or continuous scores, being made at it: more than 1400 is said to have been scored by one American player; but the tables are often smaller, the balls larger, than ours, and pushing with a broad-pointed cue is permitted. One of the longest breaks at the English game on record was 346, made by the champion, John Roberts; but that has since been eclipsed by breaks of 359 and 394, made by W Cook, junier, who will probably one day be the champion.

Pyramids, a great game for gambling, is played with fifteen red and one white ball, and consists of winning hazards only. It is a good game, but rather monotonous. Some men attain wonderful proficiency at it, and an amateur in London lately, playing from baulk at the talls arranged in the triangle as at the beginning of the game, holed the entire number in seventeen shots! A wonderful feat, certainly, and exceedingly difficult to accomplish, as any player who attempts it will find. Pool, the pleasantest and most social of all games on the billiard-table, is played with any number of variously-colored balls, each player using a special color, and playing independently of the other. Winning hazards, as in pyramids, alone count, each person receiving a certain stake from the owner of the ball which he pockets; the person pocketed also losing what is technically called "a life," having three at the commencement of the game, and losing all chance of the pool, made up of contributions from all the players, when he loses every life. A "star," or additional life, is allowed to the unlucky man who first loses the original three, on payment of the same stake as that paid at the beginning. Each life should be a third of the sum deposited in the pool; thus, a three-shilling pool with shilling lives is very common, but of course the game is played for far higher stakes. We have heard of some enterprising Australians who, by way of a variation at the game, played "bullock pool and sheep hazard." Pool without a pool-that is to say, continuous winning hazards, with a small stake for pocketing a ball-is a very good game for a party of friends in a country house. So also is "shell out," in which a number of people pluy at pyramids, using the same ball alternately, and receiving a small stake from all the other players whenever a ball is pocketed. It is a popular game in small public rooms in London. The French game consists entirely of cannons, and is played upon tables without pockets, with very much larger balls than ours, and very broad-pointed cues. Some foreigners acquire a marvellous proficiency in it. M. Charles Berger, French champion, is a wonderful player, possessing perhaps more power of cue than any man fiving. For the Russian game Carline, the German, and other varieties, we must refer the reader to any of the manuals on the subject.

Old billiard-tables were made of various shapes, some being oval and others square. When Evelyn visited the Portuguese Ambassador in 1679, he saw what he calls a new sort of billiards, with more hazards than the game then played in England. The table had posts and pins, and he tells us that the ball was struck with "the small end of the billiard-stick, which is shod with brass or silver." This "bifliard-stick" would probably be cue, which was in use on Continent fer some time before it was known here; players in this country using the mace, and "trailing" at the balls, as children do to this day when playing bagatelle. Cues were at first cut in various ways, some obliquely and others straight, and the former, for some reason or other, was called a "Jeffery." The leathertipped cue which we use now did not come into use, according to Mr. Kentfield's authority, until 1807. The best cues are made of wellseasoned ash or boxwood, and the weight of the butt and breadth of the tip may be left to the taste and fancy of the player. It is said that a good cue should be of such a length as just to stand upright under the chin of the person using it; at any rate, care should be taken that it is not too short, as in such a case it cramps the player. The balls are of ivory, and the regulation diameter is a inches but they vary very much Care is taken by the best makers that they should be not only of the same size, but of the same density and specific gravity, or they will not run true. An author called Reuben Roy, who wrote a little work called "The Science of Billiards," gives a good method for unding out whether a ball is perfect. He says:—"If a suspected ball be marked with a spot on any part of its circumference, and be carefully placed on the surface of a vase of clear water, with the mark exactly uppermost, it will descend through the lesser density of the water in exactly the same position—that is, with the mark still uppermost." This is a good test, but requires to be carefully applied, and the best plan is to get your balls from a maker in whom you have full confidence. Tables were at first made of wood, and our slate-tables only came into fashion about forty years ago. Eilliardtables are also made of fron, but the slate-bed is the best. The cushions were at first made of list, tightly strapped and hammered together; they are now manufactured of india rubber, and are therefore much faster, although some old players, we believe, still hold that the listcushions were preferable, and that the ball rebounded from them at a truer angle. The cushions should be kept as much as possible in an equable temperature, requiring the application of heat semetimes in cold or damp weather. Indeed, a good billiard-table requires as much looking after as a baby! Every billiard-player in these days is familiar with the side-stroke that is to say, the striking of the ball upon one side or other of its centre, so as to give it a bias, and make it come back from the cushion at an angle different from that it would have taken had it been struck in the centre. The maxim to be remembered by all billiard-players is, that the angle of reflexion is equal to the angle of incidence, and the object of "side" is to alter this angle according to the bias given to the ball. Side can be communicated, as were, or put on one ball by another; though it is a popular error to deny this; but the communicated side has no effect until the ball played upon has touched another ball or the cusation. put directly upon a ball by the cue will take effect without its touching either cush ion or ball in its progress, and a ball can be made to describe a semicircle on a table, or go round any object placed upon it, and return to the striker. "Screw" may be defined as side put upon the ball perpendicularly, instead of hori-zontally, and will make a ball run out on the table and come back, the axis of rotation being reversed by a low stroke, and a certain backward jerk of the ene, more easy to explain practically than theoretically. The side stroke is said to have been discovered by a billiard proprietor in Bath some years ago, but other people have laid claim to this curious way of using the cue, which certainly wrought a complete modification in the methods of playing modera bil-

It is a great pity that so good a game, requiring both brain work and manual dexterity. should have incurred much odium on account of the number of disreputable characters and "legs" who frequent public rooms. Notorious cases of sharping have come within the knowledge of all men who have played billiards promischously and a glaring instance of what the "leg" will do occurred in a billiard-room in the North of England some years ago. A casual visitor to the room was playing a game at pyramids with one of the habitues, and the other frequenters of the room were backing their triend against the stranger very heavily. The game was a close one, and went on with varying success until there remained one ball to hole, to finish, and to decide the game. corner of the room was an open lavatory, with soap-dishes and other appurtenances. The stranger had the balls left for him in a position which gave a certain hazard, but before making it, he put down his cue for a moment, and turned his back upon the table to light a fresh cigar. His opponent rubbed a finger on the soap, and passed it over the end of his cue! The stranger came back to the table and resumed the cue, without the pre-caution of chalking it, attempted to make the stroke, when the cue slipped, and he missed the only winning hazards and cannons are allowed. ball altogether—greatly to the satisfaction of losing hazards counting against the player. It is a capital game for a freehanded striker, and word in explanation. The moral of such a petty ball altogether-greatly to the satisfaction of

books that have been written on billiards. Mr. Kentfield, of Brighton, better known as "Jonathan," has given us a sumptuous folio with magnificent diagrams, which are, for the most part, useful ones. A still better book—the best, in fact, for the learner, which has been written on the game-is that of Mr. Mardon, a friend and pupil of the great Jonathan, which contains much excellent advice, and a number of clever and thoroughly practical diagrams. "Captain Crawley' has also written two books on the game- one a small manual published at half a crown, and a more pretentious work, called Billiard Book," which, however, is valuable than the Both books are wellmore volume. scarcely emaller written, and contain some good diagrams. A book called "Practical Billiards" is eminently unpractical, and although that clever player, Mr. Dufton, has given his name to it, we cannot believe he is responsible for all the nonsense it contains. The last book out is a practical manual by Mr. John Roberts, the champion, which, coming from so great a master of the cue, is a valuable addition to the literature of the game. It contains much sound practical advice by the champion himself, but it has been badly edited by some one else, who has crammed it with a great deal of foolish irrelevant matter-stories cut from magazines, and the like, which are quite out of place in a practical

The 'glories of cricket and of football have been sung in stirring strains, but billiards yet awaits its sacred bard. Here, however, are some verses descriptive of our experiences when playing with a young lady. We have called them "A Billiard Lesson"-

'Twas pleasant on the winter nights To see, beneath the shaded lights, Her golden head bent low; To watch her snowy fingers make A tiny "bridge"—and count each "break, Of such a gentle foe,

And though she said it was a sin And though she said it was a sin
To beat her—I could always win,
To bear such pretty blame:
And still while winning strokes I made,
It seemed to me as if I played A very losing game.

There's kudes in the rattling strokes You make amid a fire of jokes From chaffing fellow-men; And yet when beauty turns away. And pouts at your more skilful play, You've other feelings then.

No "bazard," that my cunning cue, With all my greatest oare could do, Or lucky "fluke" might get, Could ever equal that I ran In playing—miserable man!— With such a filting pet.

Anogthoug hI lost such heaps of gloves In betting with her-when one loves Such losing bets are blest. And since she teased me night and day, I only get a billiard-play The chances of a 'rest."

The "cannon" on the table green Will to a Canon come, I ween, Who'll tie me to a wife; And she, with backers not a few, Will quietly put on the "screw," And "pocket" me for life!

We confess that we are enthusiasts of the game: there is no other game, in our eyes, can compare with it. Now, we are happy to say, that a private table takes its place in every wellordered mansion, and the ladies of the family are found to be skilful wielders of the cue, much of the stigma that once attached to it has passed away. Other games and other pleasures may justly find admirers-"Sunt quos curriculo pulverem Olympicum Collegisse juvat;"

but be ours the pleasures of a hotly contested game, a well-played pyramid or social poolthe charms of the shaded lamps, the wellbalanced cue, the smooth green table, and the ivory balls.

-Rat-killing is reported to be the favorite Sunday amusement of the citizens of Keokuk, ... The Faculty of the East Alabama College propose to give free tuition to one student from

each county in that State. -The Female College at Wheeling, West Virginia, has had 122 pupils during the past

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United States	Government	and other Loan	\$766,450
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Railroad, Bar	ik and Canal	Stocks	55,708
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Loans on Col	ateral Securi	у	82,558
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PREMIUMS RECEIVED from November 1, 1969, to October 31, 1870:-

Premiums on Policies not marked off November 1, 1869. 502,489-32 \$1,456,709-88

PREMIUMS MARKED OFF as earned from November 1, 1869, to October 81, 1879;— On Marine and Inland Risks. \$880,748-79 On Fire Risks...... 151,548 67 \$1,032,295 46

Interest during the same period-Saivages, etc...... 152,500 98 LOSSES, EXPENSES, etc., during the year as

Marine and Inland Navigation Losses \$515,555 93 81,921 69 Reinsurances. Agency Charges, Advertising, Printing, etc... Taxes—United States, State, and Municipal Taxes.... 50,501:40

24,045 90 \$875,126-97 \$309,669-47

168,920.00

20,700-00

25,250 00

20,000.00

18,000 00

4,200.00

15,000-00

4,300.00

4,000.00

ASSETS OF THE COMPANY
November 1, 1870.
\$300,000 United States Six Per Cent.
Loan (lawful money)
200,000 State of Pesnsylvania Six Per
Cent. Loan
200,000 City of Philadelphia Six Per
Cent. Loan (exempt from
Tax) 204,162-56

Cent. Loan. 20,000 Penusylvania Railroad Morigage Six Per Cent. Bonds..... 25,000 Pennsylvania Railroad Second

Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds... 25,000 Western Penn. Railroad Mort-Company, 100 Shares Stock... 10,000 Phi adelphia and Southern Mail Steamship Company, 80

261,650.00 first liens on City Properties.

\$1,260,150 Par. Market Value .. \$1,293,557.50 Cost, \$1,264,447 84. Balances due at Agencies—Premiums on Marine Pelicies—Accrued Interest and other debts due the Company. Stock and Scrip, etc., of sundry corpora-tions, \$7,950. Estimated value. 93,375.47

3,912·00 142,911·73 \$1 820,727 97 PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 9, 1870.

The Board of Directors have this day declared a CASH DIVIDEND OF TEN PER USNT. on the CAPITAL STOCK, and SIX PER CENT, interest on the SCRIP of the Company, payable on and after the 1st of December proximo, free of National and State Taxes. They have also declared a SCRIP DIVIDEND of

TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT, on the EARNED

PREMIUMS for the year ending October 31, 1870 certificates of which will be issued to the parties entitled to the same, on and after the 1st of December proximo, free of National and State Taxes. They have ordered, also, that the SCRIP CRR-, TIFICATES OF PROFITS of the Company, for the year ending October 31, 1866, be redeemed in CASH, at the Office of the Company, on and after 1st of

on that day. By a provision of the Charter, all Certificates of Scrip not presented for redemption within five years after public notice that they will be redeemed, shall be forfeited and cancelled on the books of the

December proximo, all interest thereon to cease

No certificate of profits issued under \$25. By the Act of Incorporation, "no certificate shall issue unless claimed within two years after the declaration of the dividends whereof it is evidence." DIRECTORS.

Samuel E. Stokes, William G. Boulton, Edward Darlington, H. Jones Brooke, Edward Lafourcade, Thomas C. Hand, John C. Davis, Edmund A. Souder, Joseph H. Seal, James Traquair, Jacob Riegel,
Jacob P. Jones,
James B McFarland,
Joshua P. Eyre,
Spencer McIlvaine,
John B. Semple, Pittsb'g Henry Stoan, Henry C. Dailett, Jr., James C. Hand, Wil iam C. Ludwig, Hugh Craig. John D. Taylor, George W. Bernadou, William C. Houston,

A. B. Berger, D. T. Morgan, H. Frank Robinson, THOMAS C. HAND, President. JOHN C. DAVIS, Vice-President. HENRY LYLBURN, Secretary. HENRY BALL, Ass't Secretary.

FIRE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED MARCH 17, 1820. OFFICE, No. 84 NORTH FIFTH STREET,

INSURE BUILDINGS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, AND MERCHANDISE GENERALLY Frem Loss by fire (in the City of Philadelphia only) ASSETS, JANUARY 1, 1870, 81,572,733

TRUSTEES.

Charles P. Bower, William H. Hamilton, John Carrow,
George I. Young,
Jos. R. Lyndall,
Levi P. Coats,
Samuel Sparhawk,
Joseph E. Schell.

Jesse Lightfoot,
Robert Shoemaker,
Peter Armbruster,
M. H. Dickinson,
Peter Williamson, WM. H. HAMILTON, President.

SAMUEL SPARHAWK, Vice-President,

WILLIAM F. BUTLER,

Secretary

THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
Incorporated 1825—Charter Perpetual.
No. 510 WALNUT Street, opposite Independence

Square.

This Company, favorably known to the community for over forty years, continues to insure against loss or damage by fire on Public or Private Buildings, either permanently or for a limited time. Also on Furniture, Stocks of Goods, and Merchandise generally, on liberal terms.

Their Capital, together with a large Surplus Fund, is invested in the most careful manner, which ena-bles them to offer to the insured an undoubted secu-

rity in the case of loss. DIRECTORS. Daniel Smith, Jr., Isaac Hazlehurst, Henry Lewis, J. Gillingham Fell, Daniel Haddock, Thomas Robins, John Devereux,

Franklin A. Comly.
DANIEL SMITH, Js., President.
8 30 WM. G. CROWELL, Secretary. PAME INSURANCE COMPANY No. 809 CHESNUT Street.

INCORPORATED 1856. CHARTER PERPETUAL. CaPITAL \$200,000. FIRE INSURANCE EXCLUSIVELY. Insurance against Loss or Damage by *ire either by .
Perpetual or Temporary Policies.
DIRECTORS.

Charles Richardson,
William H. Rhawn,
William M. Seyfert,
John F. Smith,
Nathan Hilles,
George A. West,
CHARLES RICHARDSON, President,
WILLIAMS I. BLANGUARD Secretary.
WILLIAMS I. BLANGUARD Secretary. WILLIAMS I. BLANCHARD Secretary.